A

DISSERTATION

ON

HORSES.

TALIS AMYCLÆI DOMITUS POLLUCIS HABENAS
CYLLARUS, ET, QUORUM GRAII MEMINERE POETÆ,
MARTIS EQUI BIJUGES, ET MAGNI CURRUS ACHILLIS.
SEU QUIS OLYMPIACÆ MIRATUS PRÆMIA PALMÆ
PASCIT EQUOS.

VIRG. GEORG. III. v. 49, 89.

BY

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London:

PRINTED BY H. REYNELL,

NO. 21, PICCADILLY, NEAR THE HAY-MARKET.

1800.

BRITISH MUSEUM
30
60
MAY

A

DISSERTATION ON HORSES,

&c. &c.

Of their Origin and Diſperſion.

ALMOST every quarter of the earth (America excepted) poſſeſſed originally a very ſmall breed of Horſes, indigenous to its mountains, like the Corniſh and Welch pony, the Iriſh hobby, or the Scotch Sholtee or galloway! which evinces, that America was not peopled from Aſia, for the emigrants would hardly have left ſo uſeful an animal behind them, and there were no Horſes found there by Cortez or Pizarro.

In the mountains of China, Tartary, and Hungary, the pony is uſually pye-balled or motled. In Pegu, Malacca, and the Polyneſia of India, this dwarf ſpecies riſe to ſomewhat a taller ſize, and are admirably calculated for a light draft. From Java, Sumatra, and Manilla, they are tranſported to Indoſtan, to Zelon, and particularly to the Cape of Good Hope, where they are employed to the moſt uſeful purpoſes in Caravans, Coaches, Chariots, and Chaiſes. In the Caravans, the coachmen of the Cape often drive twelve of theſe little tractable creatures coupled in hand, and eight in common; but they govern them more by word than by the rein. Two men, on ſuch occaſions, ſit on the box, one of whom holds the reins, and the other a long chambriere.

All Horſes of a ſuperior kind are ſaid, and with evident probability, to have proceeded primarily from Khandahar, Cabul, Multan (the antient Bactria and Sogdiana) and more particularly from Punje-Awb, a tract ſo denominated becauſe it is ſituated between five ſtreams, which form the great river Indus, or Scind, that runs into the Perſian Sea; juſt as Meſopotamia was ſtiled by the Greeks, μέσο Ποταμος, "Interamnas" from being in the midſt of two rivers; and the ſame extent by the Perſians Doo-Awb, two waters, from its poſition between the Tigris and Euphrates. Punje-Awb is celebrated for its luxuriant paſtures, which have reared for many ages, a conſiderable number of fine Horſes. The foals graze in large herds, following one that has a bell, for that purpoſe, hung round his neck. Dealers from the Turkuman, Uſbeg, and Calmuck Tartars, as well as from every part of Perſia, and India, repair to Lahor and its confines, for the purchaſe of colts, and alſo of young camels and dromedaries, which they carry off, lightly laden with fruits, ſhawls, and furs, in numerous caravans. A toll being exacted for every Horſe, on the frontier of every province through which they paſs, the price of them, before they reach their deſtined markets, is rendered dearer (if not more unreaſonable) than they are in England. Aſiatic dealers poſſeſs all the artifices and tricks practiced by dealers in Europe to ſet off their blemiſhed Horſes, and a purchaſer muſt be cautious in his examination to prevent being impoſed upon.

One ſpecies of toll, levied on their road, is exceedingly prejudicial; for the fineſt young ſtallions of the caravans are conſtrained, by the chiefs of the ſeveral diſtricts, to cover their mares, inſtead of paying a pecuniary impoſt.

From the Countries above-mentioned, this paramount breed of Horſes, ſpread, in proceſs of time, eaſtward, to India and China; northward, to Tartary; weſtward, to Perſia, Syria, and Aſia-Minor; and ſouthward, to Arabia, Egypt, Abyſſinia, Ethiopia, Lybia, Numidia, and Mauritania. From the northern coaſts of Africa, the Moors tranſplanted them into Spain; and from thence they were introduced, by degrees, into every part of Europe.

Climate, aſſortment of food, exuberance of herbage, daintineſs or coarſeneſs of fodder, and training or management, create the difference obſervable in the bulk, ſhape, and quality of Horſes. From the rank graſs upon which they feed

feed in Holſtein, Freiſland, and the Netherlands, the Flemiſh, Dutch, and Jutland Horſes, become of an extraordinary corpulence and ſtature. Such were formerly faſhionable in England, for the equipage of courtly Dames, under the deſignation of Flanders Mares; but are now ſolely, and properly, confined to the dray.

Natural Deſcription.

A PERFECT Horſe, ſays Camerarius, is an aſſemblage of the excellencies of many animals. He ſhould poſſeſs three parts like a Woman; an expanded cheſt, protuberant hips, and a long mane. In three things he ſhould reſemble a Lion; in ferocity of countenance, in fortitude, and irreſiſtible impetuoſity. He muſt have three things appertaining to a Sheep; the noſe, gentleneſs, and patience. Three of a Mule; ſtrength, perſeverance, and ſureneſs of foot. Three of a Deer; head, legs, and ſkin. Three of a Wolf; throat, neck, and hearing. Three of a Fox; ears, tail, and rate, or trot. Three of a Serpent; memory, ſight, and flexibility; and three of a Hare; running, walking, and pertinacity. The walking of a Partridge would have been a more apt ſimilitude, being in its air and gait the moſt ſtately and graceful of all animals.

The Horſe is, in temperament, generous and proud; in frame, vigorous and powerful. He is a gregarious and ſocial animal. When they aſſemble in herds of five or ſix hundred, whilſt grazing or ſleeping, they have conſtantly a ſentinel on the watch. When this vedette perceives a human figure, he approaches confidently, both to examine and to intimidate him. If the man advances, he ſnorts, as a ſignal of alarm, upon which the herd inſtantly eſcape; the vigilant ſentinel bringing up the rear, and biting thoſe which are hindmoſt. He calls by neighing, and fights by kicking and biting. The wild aſs is his inveterate foe. He rolls when he ſweats. He eats graſs cloſer than the ox, and in dunging, diſſeminates the ſeeds that remain undigeſted; he never vomits. He is more peculiarly hurt, externally, by a ſtroke upon the ear, or on the ſtifle; by being caught by the noſe in barnacles, and by rubbing his teeth with greaſe. He is injured, internally, by the herbs Padus, Phalandria,

Cruculio, and Canops; but devours Hemlock without annoyance. The mare goes with foal three hundred and thirty-ſeven days. The longer animals are in geſtation, and vegetables in their progreſs to maturity, the more noble is their kind. A rapid growth, in animals, or vegetables, makes no proviſion for ſolidity or duration.

Non enim poteſt in eo eſſe ſuccus diuturnus, quod nimis celeriter eſt maturitatem aſſecutum. *Cicero de Oratore.*

Round hoofed, ſhort jointed, fetlocks ſhag and long,
Broad breaſt, full eyes, ſmall head, and noſtrils wide,
High creſt, ſhort ears, ſtrait legs, and paſſing ſtrong,
Thin mane, thick tail, broad buttocks, tender hide.

Shakeſpeare's Horſe of Adonis.

The ſtag necked Horſe has ſomething in the make of his body, much reſembling the ſtag itſelf; the neck is large, and ſcarcely bowed in the middle; he carries his head high. They are racers and hunters, being particularly adapted for ſwiftneſs by the make of their body. *Lavater.*

The hog necked has the neck above and below alike broad; the head hanging downwards; the middle of the noſe is concave in profile; the ears are long, thick, and hanging; the eyes ſmall and ugly; the noſtrils ſmall; the mouth large; the whole body round, and the coat long and rough. Theſe Horſes are intractable, ſlow, and vicious, and will run their rider againſt a wall, ſtone, or tree. When held in, they rear, and endeavour to throw the rider. Blows or coaxing are frequently alike ineffectual, they continue obſtinate and reſtif. *Lavater.*

If we examine the different heads of Horſes, we ſhall find, that all cheerful, high-ſpirited, capricious, courageous Horſes, have the noſe-bone of the profile convex; and that moſt of the vicious, reſtif, and idle, have the ſame bone flat, or concave. *Lavater.*

The grey is the tendereſt of Horſes; and we may here add, that people with light hair, if not effeminate, are yet, it is well known, of tender formation and conſtitution. The cheſnut, and iron grey, the black, and bay, are hardy; the ſorrel are the moſt hardy, and yet the moſt ſubject to diſeaſe. The ſorrel, whether well or ill formed, is treacherous. All

treacherous

treacherous Horſes lay their ears in the neck; they ſtare and ſtop, and lay down their ears alternately. *Lavater.*

When a Horſe has broad, long, widely ſeparated, hanging ears, we are well aſſured, he is bad and ſluggiſh. If he lays down his ears alternately, he is fearful, and apt to ſtart. Thin pointed and projecting ears, on the contrary, denote a Horſe of good diſpoſition. *Lavater.*

We never find that the thick, hog necked Horſe, is ſufficiently tractable for a riding Horſe; or that he is of a ſtrong nature, when the tail ſhakes like the tail of a dog. We may be certain that a Horſe, with large cheerful eyes, and a fine ſhining coat, if we have no other tokens, is of a good conſtitution and underſtanding. *Lavater.*

Poetical Deſcription.

Epic, Lyric, as well as didactic authors of every civilized nation, are diffuſive in their deſcription of this noble animal. A few, that more immediately recur to recollection, are here inſerted.

In the book of Job (certainly a metrical compoſition) the Horſe is thus ſublimely pourtrayed.

" Haſt thou given the Horſe ſtrength? haſt thou clothed his neck with thunder? Canſt thou make him afraid as a graſshopper? the glory of his noſtrils is terrible.

He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in his ſtrength; he goeth on to meet the armed men.

He mocketh at fear, and is not affrighted; neither turneth he back from the ſword.

The quiver rattleth againſt him, the glittering ſpear and the ſhield."

[With how much leſs elevation of language and of imagery has Horace deſcribed this animal:

" Jam Fulgor armorum fugaces
Terret Equos."]

" He ſwalloweth the ground with fierceneſs and rage: neither believeth he that it is the ſound of the trumpet.

He ſaith among the trumpets, ha! ha! and he ſmelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains and the ſhouting."

Terræg

Terræg urbeſque recedunt, ſays Virgil. The ſame image is thus expreſſed in Pope's Windſor Foreſt:

And earth rolls back beneath the flying ſteed.

And Pope thus again finely delineates him:

Th' impatient courſer pants in every vein,
And pawing, ſeems to beat the diſtant plain;
Hills, dales, and floods appear already croſt,
And 'ere he ſtarts, a thouſand ſteps are loſt.

Windſor Foreſt.

Which laſt thought is an imitation from Virgil, or from Silius Italicus.

Pereunt veſtigia mille
Ante fugam.

Virgil, Georgic III.

Campumque volatur
Cum rapuere—pedum veſtigia quæras.

Silius Italicus.

Nor is the following paſſage from Virgil leſs beautifully imagined.

Continuo pecoris generoſi pullus in arvis
Altiùs ingreditur, et mollia crura reponit.
Primus et ire viam, et fluvios tentare minaces
Audet, et ignoto ſeſe committere ponti.
Nec vanos horret ſtrepitus—
Luxuriatque toris animoſum pectus.
Tum ſi qua ſonum procul arma dedere,
Stare loco neſcit, micat auribus, et tremit artus;
Collectumque premens volvit ſub naribus ignem.

Virgil, Georgic III.

I ſaw young Harry with his beaver on,
His cuiſſes on his thighs, gallantly armed,
Riſe from the ground like feathered Mercury.
As if an angel dropt down from the clouds,
To witch the world with noble Horſemanſhip.

Shakeſpeare's Henry IV. Part 1.

The times are wild, contention like a Horſe
Full of high feeding, madly hath broke looſe,
And bears down all before him.

Shakeſpeare's Henry IV. Part 2.

Think

Think when we talk of Horſes, that you ſee them,
Printing their proud hoofs i' th' receiving earth.

Chorus to Shakeſpeare's Henry V.

And Duncan's Horſes (a thing moſt ſtrange and certain)
Beauteous and ſwift, the minions of their race,
Turned wild in nature, broke their ſtalls, flung out,
Contending 'gainſt obedience, as they would
Make war upon mankind.

Shakeſpeare's Macbeth.

Marcus. I have dogs my lord
Will rouze the proudeſt panther in the chace,
And climb the higheſt promontory top.
Titus. And I have Horſe will fillow where the game
Makes way, and run like ſwallows o'er the plain.

Shakeſpeare's Titus Andronicus.

Dauphin. I will not change my Horſe for any that ſtands on four paſterns. Ca! ha! he bounds from the earth as if his entrails were hairs. "Le Cheval Volant." The Pegaſus. "Qui a les narines de feu." When I beſtride him, I ſoar. I am a lark. He trots the air. The earth ſings when he touches it. The baſeſt horn of his hoof is more muſical than the pipe of Hermes.

Orleans. He is the colour of the nutmeg, and of the heat of ginger. It is a beaſt for Perſeus. He is pure air and fire, and the dull elements of earth and water never appear in him; but only patient ſtillneſs while his rider mounts him. He is indeed a Horſe, and all other jades you may call beaſts.

Shakeſpeare's Henry Vth.

The French can well on horſeback, but this gallant
Had witchcraft in it, he grew unto his ſeat,
And to ſuch wond'rous doing brought his Horſe,
As he had been incorpſed, and demy-natured
With the brave beaſt.

From Shakeſpeare's Hamlet, Act 4, Scene 7th.

The wanton courſer thus, with reins unbound,
Breaks from his ſtall, and beats the trembling ground;
Pamper'd and proud, he ſeeks the wonted tides,
And laves, in height of blood, his ſhining ſides,

His

His head now free'd, he toſſes to the ſkies,
His mane diſhevel'd, o'er his ſhoulders flies;
He ſnuffs the females in the diſtant plain,
And ſprings exulting to his fields again.
Pope's Homer, B. 6. V. 652.

Three thouſand mares, in ſpacious paſtures bred,
Three thouſand foals beſide their mother fed;
Boreas, enamour'd of the ſprightly train,
Conceal'd his godhead in a flowing mane;
With voice diſſembled to his loves he neigh'd,
And cours'd the dappled beauties o'er the mead.
Hence ſprang twelve others, of unrivall'd kind,
Swift as their mother mares, and father wind,
Theſe lightly ſkimming, when they ſwept the plain,
Nor ply'd the graſs, nor bent the tender grain.
Pope's Homer, B. 20. V. 262.

Qualis, ubi abruptis fugit præſepia vinclis,
Tandem liber equus, campoque potitus aperto,
Aut ille, in paſtus, armentaque tendit equarum,
Aut aſſuetus aquæ, perfundi flumine noto
Emicat, arrectiſque fremit cervicibus altè,
Luxurians, luduntque jubæ per colla, per armos.
Virgil Æneid the 11th.

Of their Eſtimation.

Of the high conſideration the Horſe was held in by antient mythologiſts, numerous legendary, as well as poetical productions, ſufficiently demonſtrate.

By the aid of the Horſe and the dog, human ſavages firſt ſubdued the ſtill more ſavage brutes and ferocious animals of the earth, which would otherwiſe have devoured, and extirpated them from the face of the globe.

Aurora is repreſented in a golden chariot drawn by white-winged Horſes, with the morning ſtar on her forehead.

Hyperion, or the ſun, is exhibited in a flaming car, drawn by four fiery courſers of ætherial race; and Diana, or the moon, by two of gentler nature, one black and the other white.

Four

Four other Pagan deities are deſcribed, alſo, as conveyed by illuſtrious ſteeds, Pluto, Mars, Caſtor, and Pollux. The ebony chariot of the former was drawn by black Horſes. Sea-horſes tranſported the car of Neptune.

On the diſpute between Pallas and Neptune, which ſhould give a name to Athens, Neptune ſtruck the ground with his trident, and up ſtarted a Horſe; and though the olive produced by Minerva, was deemed the preferable benefaction, yet the Horſe was accounted the next beſt gift of a deity to the human race.

From Perſeus was derived, probably, the Greek appellation of the Perſians, the firſt horſemen known to the natives of Europe. The wings on the feet of Perſeus denoted ſpurs.

The Hippogriff Pegaſus ſprang from the blood of Meduſa, ſlain by Perſeus. This winged Horſe flew to Mount Helicon, the ſeat of the muſes; where, with a ſtroke of his hoof, he opened the fountain Hippocrene, called by the Roman ſatiriſt, Caballinus, or the Horſe's Spring.

Belerophon, becoming arrogant from proſperity, reſolved, by the aſſiſtance of Pegaſus, to aſcend to heaven.

Cælum ipſum petimus ſtultitiâ. *Horat.*

To puniſh his preſumption, Jupiter ſtruck him blind, and he fell to the earth. Pegaſus, however, continued to mount upwards, was tranſlated to the ſkies, and ranked amongſt the conſtellations.

In the Second Book of Kings, the aſcenſion of Elijah is thus recounted. "And it came to paſs, as Elijah and Eliſha went on and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and Horſes of fire, and parted them both aſunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."

Four Horſes are mentioned in the Apocalypſe of St. John; a red one mounted by a warriour; a white, whoſe rider is a conqueror; a black ſurmounted by Juſtice; and the pale Horſe of death, followed by all the tribes of hell.

Diomed and Ulyſſes, in the Tenth Book of the Iliad, covertly approach the Thracian camp, and carry off the chariot Horſes of Rheſus.

There were no Horſes, it is averred, either in Greece or Dardania at the æra of the Trojan war: for Homer compoſed his Iliad three hundred years ſubſequent to that event, terminating it ſoon after the death of Hector. The fiction

of the wooden Horſe was a later invention of the poets, to conclude the ſtory.

Horſes, beſides, were neither natives of Greece, nor of the Leſſer Aſia. When the Greeks firſt beheld a man on Horſeback (moſt probably a Perſian) they were ſaid to have miſtaken the two objects for a ſingle animal, and to have called it a Centaur; which indicates (by the bye) their total unſkilfulneſs in the ſtructure and anatomy of the human frame, as well as of the general animal œconomy. For their Centaur, having two bodies, muſt have been nouriſhed by two kinds of food, either of which would have proved detrimental to one of the bodies; and muſt, to have been digeſted, have paſſed through two different ſtomachs and viſcera, deſigned for two very different ſorts of proviſion, and very different operations.

Horſes had not been brought into Greece long before the ſiege of Troy. They were originally Eaſtern animals, and, if we find, at that period, ſo great a number of them reckoned up in the wars of the Iſraelites, it is the leſs a wonder, conſidering they came from Aſia. The practice of riding them was ſo little known in Greece a few years before, that they looked upon the Centaurs, who firſt uſed it, as monſters compounded of men and horſes. Neſtor, in the firſt Iliad, ſays, he had ſeen theſe Centaurs in his youth, and Polypœtes, in the ſecond, is ſaid to have been born on the day that his father expelled them from Pelion to the deſerts of Æthica. They had no other uſe of Horſes than to draw their chariots in battle; ſo that whenever Homer ſpeaks of fighting from an Horſe, taming an Horſe, or the like, it is certainly to be underſtood of fighting from a chariot, or taming Horſes to that ſervice. This (as we have ſaid) was a piece of decorum in the poet; for, in his own time, they were arrived to ſuch a perfection in Horſemanſhip, that in the Fifteenth Iliad, V. 822, we have a ſimile taken from an extraordinary feat of activity, where one man manages four Horſes at once, and leaps from the back of one to another at full ſpeed.

Pope's Homer, Vol. II. p. 53.

So when a Horſeman, from the wat'ry mead,
Skill'd in the manage of the bounding ſteed,
Drives four fair courſers, practis'd to obey,
To ſome great city thro' the public way;

Safe

Safe in his art, as ſide by ſide they run,
He ſhifts his ſeat, and vaults from one to one,
And now to this, and now to that he flies;
Admiring numbers follow with their eyes.

Homer's Iliad, Book XV. Verſe 821.

If we conſider in what high eſteem, among warriours, theſe noble animals muſt have been at their firſt coming into Greece, we ſhall the leſs wonder at the frequent occaſions Homer has taken to deſcribe and celebrate them. It is not ſo ſtrange to find them ſet almoſt upon a level with men, at a time when an Horſe, in the prizes, was of equal value with a captive.

Riding, however, was practiſed at the time when Homer wrote, as is manifeſt from his frequent alluſions to equeſtrian ſkill, comparing the activity of Ajax to the vaulting of Horſemen, and the ſteadineſs of Ulyſſes, aſtride a plank in the ſea, to the ſtability of a good rider.

Homer no where repreſents cavalry, or trumpets, to have been uſed in the Trojan war, though they apparently were in his own time. It is not, therefore, impoſſible, but there may be found in his works, ſome deficiencies in the art of war, which are not to be imputed to his ignorance, but to his judgment. *Pope's Homer, Vol. II. p.* 53.

The antient heroes never fought on Horſeback; nor does their manner of fighting in chariots, ſeem to require leſs activity than on foot.

Samuel Johnſon, in a Note to Troilus and Creſſida.

The heroes of Homer never fought on Horſeback; yet ſuch of them as make their ſecond appearance in the Æneid, appear to have had cavalry amongſt them, as well as their antagoniſts, the Rutilians. *Steevens, ditto, ditto.*

In the Seventeenth Book, the Horſes of Achilles ſhed tears for the loſs of Patroclus; and in the Nineteenth Book, one of his ſteeds addreſſes his maſter, propheſies his death, and deplores his impending fate. Theſe incidents conſtitute ſome of the moſt admired paſſages in that immortal poem.

The uncommon endowments, poſſeſſed by the Horſes of Cæſar and Alexander, are as renowned, as the abilities and accompliſhments of their maſters.

The ſpirit, as well as the appellation of chivalry, aroſe from the excellency of the Horſe. The benevolent, pro-

tective effects, which that gallant ſpirit produced, in innumerable generous and valiant enterprifes, have remained the admiration of every ſucceeding age.

Of the Arab Horſe.

Of the ſeveral claſſes of this paragon of animals, the Arab is held in chief eſtimation. When an Arabian gets poſſeſſion of a fine Horſe and Mare, he breeds from them alone, nor ſuffers, on any account, the interference of any ſpurious generation, or the croſs intermixture of any other kind whatever. For the preſervation of this pure, generous, uncorrupted blood, authenticated pedigrees are regiſtered, and preſerved in the offices of the Cazis of Arabia (tracing their deſcent with the ſame accuracy, as the tables of genealogical lineage in the noble families of Europe) compriſing the name or title, colour, and marks peculiar to each of the illuſtrious individuals of the firſt unadulterated race, ſo that the ſpecies is frequently recognized by mere inſpection alone. For a male foal the pious Arab offers up the ſame ſacrifice (the deſart Arabs ſtill retaining ſome relicks of the rights of Iſhmael, from whom they are deſcended) as for the birth of a male child. It is rather a remarkable circumſtance, that the beſt Arab Horſes are produced, and nouriſhed in the deepeſt receſſes of Arabia Petrea, though that deſart region be almoſt deſtitute of vegetation, and but ill ſupplied with water. This may account, however, for their enduring heat, thirſt, and hunger, better and longer than any other horſes. As ſoon as foaled, the colts and fillies are placed in a tent, amongſt the children of the family, with whom they lie on the ſame litter, roll about and play amongſt them, which conſtitutes one reaſon, added to their generous blood, why Arab Horſes are generally ſo ductile and gentle.

There are two caſts or race of Arab Horſes, the Kadiſki, of unknown deſcent, and the Kochlani, whoſe written lineage has been preſerved for two thouſand years. The firſt are employed for draft, for burthen, and for common uſe; the other fine breed are reſerved for riding only, and are ſaid to be derived from the ſtuds of King Solymân. They endure great fatigue, and can remain whole days without food. They evince uncommon courage againſt an enemy.

If

If the rider fall, the Horſe ſtays by him, and neighs for aſſiſtance. They are not large, but amazingly ſwift, gentle, generous, and perſevering. They are bred principally by the Bedouins (or wandering Arabs) between Baſſorah, Merdin, and Syria. Kochlani Mares are never covered but in preſence of Arabian witneſſes. There is no inſtance of falſe teſtimony in caſe of the pedigree of the Kochlani race. The witneſs muſt previouſly watch the Mare twenty days, to prevent all poſſibility of contamination, or degeneracy from intercourſe with other Horſes, and from even ſeeing Horſe, or Aſs, during that interval. At foaling the witneſs muſt be again preſent, in order to certify the legitimacy of the colt, by a notarial certificate before a Cazi.

From Nieubuhr's Travels in Arabia, Vol. II. p. 300, 301, 302.

By never croſſing the breed, Arab Horſes ſeldom exceed fourteen hands and a half, or fifteen hands in height. They are, nevertheleſs, ſtrong and indefatigable in travel, when not hurried. Accounts of their unwearied perſiſtence on journies, even in Arabia, an unfavourable climate for exerciſe, being aſſerted almoſt beyond credibility. Only one animal in the world, called Goorcur, (a ſpecies of Zebra, of a dun colour inſtead of being ſtriped, and mentioned in Scripture, under the name of "*Wild Aſs of the Mountains*," a native of Guzerat, Berar, and the Afghân mountains, and ſometimes met with in Perſia) can vie with the Arab Horſe in ability and endurance on journies.

The Goorcur, like all other of thoſe quadrupeds, which partake more of the Aſs than the Horſe, bears the mark of a croſs along his back and ſhoulders.

The characteriſtic points of a genuine Arab are, a ſmall flat forehead; full, wide, extended, and arched noſtrils, diſplaying the crimſon on their inſide; a waving ſwan neck, the hair feathered along a flowing mane, and alſo upon the breaſt, and upon the flanks; the breaſt amply ſpread; an eye like an antelope; a round ſhaped barrel; legs ſlender, tapering, and muſcular; a ſkin thin, with the veins of the neck and body ſwelling to the ſight; the ears little, pointed, and well ſhaped, but dangling, and declining outwards too widely from each other; the loins terminating in a gooſe rump, with the tail ſet on too low, but the hair of it abundantly thick, buſhy, and floating. Flattery greatly excites their

their joy, and they will expreſs their pride of heart by parading and prancing.

Of the Barb.

Barbs are the produce of Arab Horſes, and African Mares brought from the mountains of the moon. From the Barb, and Mares generated in La Mancha, Andaluſia, and Eſtramadura, is derived the Spaniſh Jennet, deemed the preferable Horſe for attaining the graceful voltes and airs of the manége and for ladies' riding.

From the Godolphin blood, croſſed with the offspring of the Barb, are ſaid to proceed the beſt Engliſh racers and hunters.

Of other Breeds.

The Horſes of Carinthia, are ſuppoſed to be amongſt the ſtrongeſt and moſt indefatigable in Europe.

Neapolitan Horſes are eſteemed for their lofty mien, and elegant appearance in the coach. They exhibit a variety in colour, alſo, ſcarcely credible; amongſt which, the cream coloured, gloſſy as ſattin, and the ſhining ſilver white, are preferred.

The Horſes of Sardinia are ſmall, but ſo excellent, that a ſtallion has been known to travel 24 hours without drawing the bit. *From Arthur Young's Travels, P.* 394. *Vol.* 1.

Amongſt the Mahrattas, there is a ſort of Horſe very tall; a croſs made, meagre, aquiline-noſed, reſtive creature, called Tazzeh; but ſtrong, boney, and high mettled, which if imported into this country, would conduce, probably, ſtill further to meliorate the Engliſh breed.

No perſon has contributed ſo much to advance the breed of Engliſh Horſes, as the preſent Earl Groſvenor. His ſtud of racers is unparalleled. And from a ſuperb creature called Mambrino, formerly appertaining to his lordſhip, the breed of Horſes for the coach is brought nearly to perfection.

Of the Godolphin Arabian.

THERE was ſomewhat of wonderful virtue and efficacy in the blood of a Horſe, exiſting in England between forty and fifty years ago, called the Godolphin Arabian; although it be not perfectly aſcertained that he was actually of Arabian extraction: but from whatever ſource it iſſued, it was his high mettled blood that communicated, to the Engliſh Horſes, that vigour and energy of ſpirit, which diſtinguiſhes their intrinſic goodneſs, and renders them, next to the Arab, far ſuperior to any other race. For the Engliſh, conſtantly croſſing their own, with the breed of every other country, produce a kind, though by no means ſo beautiful as the Arab, yet always far ſurpaſſing him in ſtrength, and generally in ſwiftneſs.

He was called ſo from belonging to the Earl of Godolphin. He became a ſtallion as ſoon as he was landed from Normandy. He died at Hogmagog Hills, December, 1753, in the 29th year of his age. His celebrated foals were Lath, Diſmal, Bajazet, Babraham, Phœnix, Dormouſe, Regulus, Skewball, Sultan, Blank, Cade, Slug, Noble, Tarquin, Bloſſom, Shepherdeſs, Amelia, and the Godolphin Gelding.

He was a Brown Horſe, about fifteen hands high; firſt the property of Mr. Coke, and given by him to Mr. Roger Williams, keeper of the St. James's coffee-houſe, by whom he was preſented to the Earl of Godolphin.

From almoſt every country, tradition has delivered to us accounts of ſome native, endued with uncommon force of body; and their principal proofs of theſe corporeal powers have been uſually drawn, from the notorious prolific capacities of theſe their heroes. Hercules and Theſeus, amongſt the Greeks, are deſcribed, as thus excelling their cotemporaries in their generative faculties.

The common and moſt glorious legend, includes, ſays Mr. Gibbon, in a ſingle night, the 50 victories of Hercules, over the daughters of Theſeus.

Sampſon is the champion of the Iſraelites in ſimilar qualifications.

But

But the feats in this ſeſquipedalian labour of an inconſiderable citizen of Paris, are recorded as going far beyond them all. Attend to the relation in the author's own words.

" Blunet etoit un petit Bourgeois de Paris, ſans rang, ſans fortune, ſans credit, *ſans talens ſpirituels.* Ce Blunet fit à ſa femme vingt un enfans en ſept fois de ſuite; or il n'yeut, peutetre, pas, dans toute l'antiquité, un exemple d'une fécundité ſi prodigieuſe. C'eſt l'Hercule Pariſien, que ce Blunet.

" Major in exiguo regnabat corpore virtus." *Virgil.*

Comme le public emerveillé, ne ſcavoit á qui, de ſa femme, ou de lui, on en attribueroit l'honneur; Blunet coucha avec une ſervante, qu'il avoit, et la fille accoucha de trois enfans mâles. Blunet mourut en 1685." *Tableau de Paris.*

Of this athletic race of men alſo, was one Thomas Topham, commonly called the Strong Man, who kept the ſign of the Strong Man at Iſlington, about the year 1763; where he exhibited proofs of his prodigious ſtrength, and uncommon proweſs, in a great variety of feats; of which Dr. Deſaguliers has given an account, in a paper communicated to the Royal Society, which is publiſhed in their memoirs.

He once pulled out the iron bars from a kitchen range, by bending them in the middle, and thus wrenched them from their rivets at each end. At another time, he, with his finger and thumb, ſqueezed together the ſides of a common ſilver tankard.

When he was dead, ſeveral phyſical gentlemen went to examine the muſcular parts of his body, and afterwards publiſhed ſome account of them.

Of the Deſcent of Childers.

This ſurpriſing Horſe, almoſt the fleeteſt ever known in the world, was bred by Leonard Childers, Eſq. of Yorkſhire, and diſpoſed of, when young, to the Duke of Devonſhire. He was got by the Darley Arabian; his dam was Betty Leeds. Betty Leeds was got by the Marquis of Wharton's Careleſs; Careleſs by Spanker; Spanker by the D'Arcy Yellow Turk; his grand dam was got by the Leedes Arabian; his great grand dam by Spanker; his great great grand dam by a natural Barb Horſe.

It is remarkable, however, that ſcarcely any fleet courſers ſprang from the celebrated Childers, though himſelf the ſwifteſt Horſe ever known; on the contrary, his race have proved eminently defective; declining, like our modern nobility, with an uncommon precipitation of degeneracy.

Of Equeſtrian Statues.

The figure and ſymmetry of the Horſe is no where more perfectly diſplayed, than in the Equeſtrian Statue of Charles the Firſt, the moſt finiſhed piece of workmanſhip of its kind, ever, perhaps, exhibited. That of Marcus Aurelius, or the two on the Monte Cavallo, or Quirino, at Rome, do not ſurpaſs it.

View the other Equeſtrian figures within the ſquares of London; how infinitely inferior they appear to that of Charing-croſs? but none more ſo than that ſtuck up in Berkeley-ſquare, which more reſembles a Cart-horſe, than the Charger of a Monarch. Continually, however, in our ſight, the "Chef d'ouvre" of Charles is not only diſregarded, but ſo ſcandalouſly neglected, that it will ſoon become, for want of common care and attention, either totally disfigured or deſtroyed.

Incolumen odimus,
Sublatam ex oculis, quærimus invidi.

The four Horſes of gilded bronze over the grand entrance to St. Mark's church at Venice, ſaid to be the work of Lycippus, are eſteemed much more admirable than the Horſe of Marcus Aurelius, in the capital of Rome. They belonged to a chariot of the ſun, erected on a triumphal arch, by Nero, to whom they were given by Tiridates, king of Armenia. Conſtantine tranſported them from Rome, to his celebrated hippodrome at Conſtantinople, from whence they were ſent to Venice, by Henry Dandolo, after the capture of Conſtantinople by the French and Venetians, in 1204.

From Watkins's Travels in 1787-8-9.

Of their Powers.

The ſtructure of the ſpine determines what animals are beſt adapted for the carriage, and what for the draught. That of elephants, camels, buffalos, and oxen, are convex. Both in Aſia and Africa, all thoſe animals are employed to carry burthens. The ſpine of the Horſe, on the contrary, is concave, which decides the draught to be his forte; and yet Pack-horſes in Yorkſhire carry, not unuſually, loads of 420 pounds; and what is ſtill more remarkable, there are Mill-horſes, which have been known to carry thirteen meaſures, of each 70 pounds, or a weight of 910 pounds.

Engliſh Horſes excel, in point of ſtrength; for a London Dray-horſe has been known to move, on a plane ſurface, for a ſhort ſpace, the weight of three tons, and to draw half that weight, a conſiderable diſtance, with eaſe.

On the ſandy plains of Africa, notwithſtanding the narrowneſs of the Horſe's hoof, and the breadth of the Oſtrich's feet, this bird is purſued by the Horſe, with the hunter on his back, and generally with ſucceſs. The oſtrich runs in circles, is exceedingly fleet, and more ſo when catching the wind by the elevation of his wings.

Huſſars, Croats, Hulâns, and Pandours, ſlit the noſes of their Horſes, on a ſuppoſition that it aſſiſts their breathing.

In Quito, the ſmall breed of mountain Horſes is trained to purſue the wild aſs. In full career, and with a ſlackened rein, the hunters urge them over rugged ground, and precipitate them down declivities in a wonderful manner, yet without danger of their falling.

Although Horſes, as before obſerved, were not ab origines of America, they are now ſo abundant there, particularly about Buenos-ayres, and in Patagonia, that people are employed continually, in numerous parties, to hunt and to deſtroy them, for the ſake of their ſkins only, which conſtitute an article of trade. On approaching within the proper diſtance of them, the hunter dexterouſly throws a cord, at the end of which is faſtened a bullet, which twiſts round their necks, confuſes them, and ſtops their flight. He then, with a ſickle at the extremity of a light pole, hamſtrings his prey, and leaves it to his followers on foot, to flay them.

The

The Horſes of Andaluſia, (ſays Mr. Peyron, in his travels through Spain) are naturally chaſte, and there is nothing to apprehend in putting them near mares; but after they have once known them, they are very difficult to reduce to obedience.

" For young hot colts being raged do rage the more."

King Richard II. Act 2, *Scene* 1.

On a forced march, or fatiguing journey, the Mahrattas drench their Horſes with an opiate, called Bang, compoſed of an infuſion from the green fibres of hemp; by the aid of which, they proceed an unuſual length of way. This juice, when inſpiſſated, affords a narcotic ſtill more potent.

Of the ſpeed of one Arab, and of many Engliſh Horſes, we have authentic documents. The famous Childers moved $82\frac{1}{2}$ feet in one ſecond of time, which is nearly at the rate of one mile in one minute; for he ran round a courſe at Newmarket (little leſs than four miles) in ſix minutes and forty ſeconds, a degree of velocity which no Horſe has been known to exceed.

" Vento gravidas ex prole putaris."

Another account avers, that he ran over another courſe at Newmarket (which is 380 yards more than four Engliſh miles) in $7\frac{1}{2}$ minutes; and over that courſe, which is leſs than four miles by 400 yards, in ſix minutes and forty ſeconds, which is forty-ſix feet nine inches *in one ſecond of time.*

In general, the racers at Newmarket run round a four-mile courſe in about ſeven minutes and fifty ſeconds, or eight minutes, which gives forty-four feet ſix inches in one ſecond of time, and twenty-four Engliſh feet at every ſtretch.

Mr. de St. Bel pronounced, with the greateſt probability, from his accurate computations, that the horſe Eclipſe, free from all weight, and galloping at liberty, with his greateſt degree of ſwiftneſs, could cover an extent of ground of twenty-five feet, at every complete action, on the gallop; and that he could run nearly four miles in the ſpace of ſix minutes and two ſeconds.

A Horſe, about the year 1727, belonging to Mr. Thomas Croſs, numberer to Lincoln's-inn theatre, ran away with his

chaiſe, with a woman in it, and leaped therewith over Whetſtone turnpike. *The Gentleman's Magazine for* 1737, *p.* 767.

In February, 1736, a Horſe, twelve hands and a half high, went one hundred miles, on Banſtead Downs, in fifteen hours.

In April, 1745, **Mr.** Cooper Thornhill, keeper of the Bull Inn, at Stilton, ſet out from thence at four o'clock in the morning, to ride to London, and came to the King's Arms, over againſt Shoreditch Church, ten minutes before eight. He returned back immediately for Stilton, and from thence, came again, in good ſpirits, to Shoreditch Church, by a quarter paſt four in the afternoon; the whole being 213 miles, in twelve hours and ſeventeen minutes; which he was to perform, with ſeveral horſes, in fifteen hours, for a bet of five hundred pounds of his own money, and large ſums laid by other gentlemen. He performed it in two hours and forty-three minutes leſs than the time allowed. On the 4th alſo, he rode between London and Stilton, in three hours and fifty ſix minutes, and won by thirty-four minutes.

N. B. This account is taken from under a print of the ſaid Cooper Thornhill, hanging in the room, at the inn, at Stilton.

In the month of November, of the year 1754, Mr. Jenniſon Shaftoe rode fifty miles, round one of the courſes at Newmarket, in one hour, forty-nine minutes and ten ſeconds, on ten Horſes: he was allowed two hours to perform it, and upon as many Horſes as he choſe.

Dodſley's Annual Regiſter, Vol. I. p. 100.

In 1761, two Horſes ran, for a wager of fifty pounds, from Colcheſter to Whitechapel Church. They ran the firſt forty miles in two hours and ten minutes, and the laſt ten miles in fifty-two minutes. The winning Horſe carried it by about two hundred yards. *Dodſley's Annual Regiſter*, 1761, *p.* 99.

On June 1ſt, 1761, was decided a wager of one thouſand guineas, between Mr. Shaftoe and Mr. Meynell, that a man rode 2900 miles in twenty-nine days ſucceſſively, which was performed without much difficulty.

Dodſley's Annual Regiſter, 1761, *p.* 118.

A perſon in Leeds, rode his common hackney from thence to Hull, and back again, which is 130 miles, in nineteen

nineteen hours and twenty-two minutes. He was allowed twenty hours. *Dodſley's Annual Regiſter*, 1761, *p.* 142.

A Mare ſtarted from the Fox and Hounds, in Tottenham-court-road, to draw a ſingle-horſe chaiſe, with a perſon in it, to Lincoln, in twenty-four hours, but performed the journey with eaſe, in nineteen hours and a quarter. The diſtance is upwards of 130 miles. *Dodſley's A. R.* 1761, *p.* 147.

In the year 1791, a Mr. Wilde rode 127 miles in ſeven hours; he had nine hours to do it in.

In the year 1794, a gentleman ſet out from Oxford, to ride a match againſt time, to London, and back again, 108 miles in twelve hours, with change of horſes, which he performed in eight hours and a quarter.

At a very early hour on Monday morning, a trotting match, againſt time, was decided on the road between Cambridge and Huntingdon, for one hundred guineas. The wager was made ſome weeks back, between Mr. Dyſon, of Park-lane, and Mr. Fagg, of Holborn; Mr. Dyſon binding himſelf to produce a Horſe, Mare, or Gelding, that ſhould, within a given period, trot ſeventeen miles within the hour, on any ground to be choſen by himſelf, he giving forty-eight hours notice to Mr. Fagg. Yeſterday, being the day appointed for the deciſion of the wager, vaſt numbers of perſons, of every deſcription, and particularly thoſe of the ſporting world, aſſembled, to witneſs this bold attempt. Very conſiderable bets were depending. A Mare, the property of Mr. Dyſon, was brought upon the ground; ſhe was rode by a lad belonging to Mr. Marſden of Moorfields, but ſhe loſt the wager by one minute and four ſeconds.

From a Newſpaper, of Auguſt 7, 1797.

Laſt week an officer of the Ayrſhire Light Dragoons, rode fifteen miles, in an hour and nine minutes, on the road leading from Chelmsford to Dunmow, with his face to the Horſe's tail. The bet was one hundred guineas, and he had an hour and a half allowed him.

From a Newſpaper, of November 24, 1798.

The late four-mile race on the Beacon Courſe, was run exactly in ſeven minutes and a quarter; and the laſt ſtroke of Hambletonian, in paſſing the winning poſt, meaſured ſeven yards. *From a Newſpaper, of March* 25. 1799.

A Mare,

A Mare, belonging to James Craig, Eſq. of Carricfergus, trotted, againſt time, from Carricfergus, eight miles and a quarter. She had forty-five minutes to perform it in, and won, having two or three minutes to ſpare.

From a Newſpaper.

Of their Docility.

To what degree of inſtruction Horſes are ſuſceptible, the annals of every country ſufficiently announce. None more ſo than the Manége of the late Sir Sidney Medowes, and the ſubſiſting ſchools and feats of Aſtley, Hughes, Jones, Handy, Smith, and Croſſman, moſt admirable, and wonderful to behold. No artificial leſſons, however, can excel the graceful, ſpontaneous motions of the Horſe himſelf, when firſt turned looſe into a field, and of which, the curvets and caprioles of the ſchools are merely imitations. Not long ſince, there was an Arab Horſe, in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Hughes, called Chillaby; 'till then, more ferocious than a tyger. In no long proceſs, however, partly by diminution of his food, partly by keeping him from ſleep, or working him in the night, and partly by lenient management, Mr. Hughes reduced him to that ſtate of docility, as to fetch and carry, and perform divers other extraordinary feats, at command. Longeing Horſes in the circle, and working them in the pillars, was firſt practiſed, by the Sicilians, during the ſiege of Syracuſe, and by the Romans, under Camillus; for being confined within the limits of their walls, they had no ſufficient ſpace left to exerciſe their cavalry in any other manner.

It is owing to the docility of their Horſes, that the Turks are enabled to throw up a ſpear, whilſt their Horſes are on a gallop, and to catch it before it falls; alſo, to ſtrike a ball with a racket, and then ſtrike it again into the air, in full career.

In Numidia, Horſes were formerly, and I believe, are at preſent, broken in, and afterwards guided, by a ſwitch, without the aid of any bridle. "*Numidæ Infrænati*" are mentioned by Virgil, and by other Roman writers.

Neither is their intelligence leſs conſpicuous. When exerciſed in the longe, or between the pillars, and right in the

the performance of their motions, their mouths are then rubbed with ſalt, to make them remember, and it produces its effect.

Of all the prone creation, none diſplay
A friendlier ſenſe of man's ſuperior ſway:
Some, in the ſilent pomp of grief, complain
For the brave chief by doom of battle ſlain;
And, when young Peleus, in his rapid car
Ruſh'd on, to rouſe the thunder of the war,
With human voice inſpir'd, his ſteed deplor'd
The fate impending dreadful o'er his lord.

Oppian Cyneg: Lib. I.

Shakeſpeare, the moſt accurate obſerver of nature, records their propenſity to muſic, in the following beautiful lines.

For do but note (ſays he) a wild and wanton herd,
Or race of youthful and unhandled colts,
Fetching mad bounds, bellowing, and neighing loud;
(Which is the hot condition of their blood)
If they, perchance, but hear a trumpet ſound,
Or any air of muſic touch their ears,
You ſhall perceive them make a mutual ſtand,
Their ſavage eyes turn'd to a modeſt gaze,
By the ſweet power of muſic.

Merchant of Venice.

Then I beat my tabor,
At which, like unbacked colts, they pricked their ears,
Advanced their eye-lids, lifted up their noſes
As they ſmelt muſic; ſo I charm'd their ears.

Shakeſpeare's Tempeſt.

In the exhibition of feats of horſemanſhip, at the Royal Saloon and Circus, the Horſes themſelves move in cadence to the muſic.

Thorough bred hunters, if they hear the cry of the hounds, or ſound of the horn, whilſt grazing, ſometimes o'erleap all bounds, and ſurmount every obſtacle of incloſure to follow the chace.

Before the ſignal of the drum or trumpet is given on a field day, troop Horſes are ſeen pawing, ſhuffling, and impatient to wheel, cloſe, or rein back, &c. &c. and execute

the

the ſeveral evolutions of themſelves; for which reaſon awkward recruits, at a review, are mounted upon the beſt dreſſed Horſes.

Ut fremit acer equus, cùm bellicus ære canoro
Signa dedit tubicen, pugnæque aſſumit amorem.
Ovid's Met. Lib. 4. *v.* 704.

During the cold nights of a winter's campaign, troopers frequently lye cloſe to the bodies of their Horſes, in order to keep themſelves warm; and the faithful creatures ſcarcely ſtir a limb, for fear of hurting their maſters.

Should it chance to thunder, whilſt veteran dragoon Horſes are at graſs, they have been known to array themſelves immediately in file, and in their uſual ranks, as if they heard the report of cannon.

A driver of a ſtage machine, in 1764, going to Newbury fell dead from his box, within three miles of that place; but was not miſſed by the paſſengers, till after their arrival; the Horſes having brought them to their inn, without any ſtop or accident; a remarkable inſtance of the great ſagacity and tractableneſs of that noble animal.

See the Annual Regiſter, for 1764, *Vol.* 7, *p.* 23.

The ſervant of Farmer Peters, of Wiſhingford, in Cornwall, having beaten a Horſe with great cruelty, the beaſt ſeized him with his teeth, and ſhook him in the air, in ſuch a manner, that he died two hours afterwards.

From the Gentleman's Magazine for 1769, *V.* 39, *p.* 211.

A man having caſtrated a Horſe, the animal a few days after ſeized on him, broke his arm with his teeth, threw him down, laid upon him, and could not be got off till he was ſhot.

From the Gentleman's Magazine for 1734, *V.* 4, *p.* 106.

Of their Equipment.

All nations, except the Engliſh, and their derivatives, endeavour to ſet off, and adorn their Horſes, in a manner correſpondent to the beauty of their ſhape. Some ſtain their bodies, their tails, and their feet of a Cærulean blue, or other vivid colours. Others capariſon them with ornamental houſings, taſſels, and plumes of feathers; embroidered

ſumpter

ſumpter clothes, coſtly chains, trappings, and ſilver net-work; and with ſaddles and bridles plated with gems: whilſt the Engliſh ſtudy, at conſiderable pains and expence to diſfigure their Horſes, firſt by caſtration; next by docking their tails, manes, and ears; and laſtly, by equipping them with leathern furniture, and iron, copper, and braſs accoutrements; all as devoid of convenience, as they are deſtitute of elegance and taſte. Not to avert to the ſavage miſery of depriving ſo noble a creature, ſo gentle and ſerviceable, even to his barbarians, of thoſe members which nature intended, as much for his health and protection, as for his perſonal decoration.

Of Racing.

From very early periods, Horſes were trained to the courſe. But though Pindar alludes to matches won by ſingle Horſes, and Pauſanias ſpeaks of equeſtrian games inſtituted by Hercules, yet, by racing was generally underſtood a conteſt of chariots only.

In Italy, the Horſes run races in a ſtraight line, without riders. Two balls ſtuck full of ſpikes are thrown over their backs, which goad them as they run. But the true beauty of the Horſe is preferably diſplayed in the airs of the Manége; as originally moſt completely taught by the celebrated Cavendiſh, Marquis of Newcaſtle, at his ſeat at Welbeck, in Nottinghamſhire, and ſince his death from the rules publiſhed in his works on that ſubject.

Laſt week a match was run againſt time at Newmarket, by a Horſe that was engaged to go twenty miles in one hour. Dutton's three-mile courſe was the ground fixed on; the firſt round of which he performed in eight minutes, fifty-two ſeconds; the ſecond in eight minutes, thirteen ſeconds; the third in eight minutes, thirty-two ſeconds; the fourth in eight minutes, thirty-three ſeconds; the fifth in eight minutes, forty-three ſeconds; the ſixth in eight minutes, forty-five ſeconds; and the laſt two miles in ſix minutes. In the whole, he was fifty-ſeven minutes, thirty-eight ſeconds, going the twenty miles. The bet was ſixty to forty againſt the performance.

From a Newſpaper, 1799.

The long depending trotting match between Mr. Dixon and Mr. Biſhop, on Sunbury common, was yeſterday decided. It

was eight miles, which was performed in twenty-ſeven minutes, ten ſeconds, in favour of Mr. Dixon.

From a Newſpaper, July, 1799.

Of Foot Races.

A DROVER, that began on Monday laſt to walk, and was to go four hundred miles in ſix days, at Holloway, for a wager of three hundred pounds, compleated it at fifty minutes after ten this evening.

From the Gentleman's Magazine, for 1737, *Vol. VII. p.* 71.

A foot race for one hundred pounds was run by the famous Pinwire, and an Iriſh footman, from Highgate to Barnet, and back again, thirteen miles, and won by the latter, performing it in one hour, nineteen minutes and a half.

From the Gentleman's Magazine for 1739, *Vol. IX. p.* 160.

A butcher at Wandſworth, lately walked forty-four miles in ſeven hours and fifty ſeven minutes.

Annual Regiſter, Vol. V. p. 86, *for* 1762.

Some days ago, a man who ſells Fiſh about Chelſea, Fulham, &c. undertook to run from Hyde-park Corner, to the ſeven mile ſtone at Brentford, in one hour, with fifty-ſix pounds of fiſh on his head; which he performed in forty-five minutes with eaſe. This is reckoned the moſt extraordinary circumſtance of the kind that has been performed for many years. *Annual Regiſter for* 1763, *Vol. VI. p.* 54.

One of the Glouceſterſhire militia, for a wager of three hundred pounds, having undertaken to walk from London to Briſtol in twenty hours, ſet out at twelve at night, and arrived at Briſtol the next evening, about thirty-five minutes after ſeven, having performed it with eaſe in nineteen hours and thirty-five minutes.

Annual Regiſter for 1763, *Vol. VI. p.* 88.

At a foot race, on the Deptford road, by two tanners, the winner ran nine miles in an hour and four minutes.

Annual Regiſter for 1764, *Vol. VII. p.* 74.

A foot match was run on Moulſey-hurſt, by a ſhepherd againſt time. He was to run fifteen miles in an hour and a half, and performed it in an hour and twenty-eight minutes.

From the Gentleman's Magazine for 1764, *Vol. XXXIV. p.* 614.

A meſſenger

A meſſenger, who did not ſet out from London till the day before yeſterday, at two in the afternoon, landed at eleven this night, at St. George's Quay, Dublin, a very extraordinary inſtance of quick travelling.

Annual Regiſter for 1764, *Vol. VII. p.* 74.

A journeyman baker in Old-ſtreet, lately ran from Old-ſtreet turnpike to Shoreditch turnpike, and back again, which is reckoned a mile and a half, for a wager of twenty guineas, in ſeven minutes and a quarter. He had been allowed nine.

Annual Regiſter for 1765, *Vol. VIII. p.* 110.

A few days ago a young woman, near Cockermouth, walked ſeventy-two miles in one day, *viz.* from Blencogo, to within two or three miles of Newcaſtle.

Annual Regiſter for 1765, *Vol. VIII. p.* 113.

Mr. Mullins, a watch-caſe maker in Shoreditch, near fifty years old, lately walked without ſhoes or ſtockings, from Shoreditch church to St. George's church in the Borough, and back again, being about four miles, for a wager of ſix guineas, in the ſpace of forty-ſix minutes and a half, having had fifty allowed him.

Annual Regiſter for 1765, *Vol. VIII. p.* 120.

A perſon for a wager, undertook to go from Cambridge to the Bull inn in Biſhopſgate-ſtreet, and back again, in eight hours. He performed it in eight hours and two minutes, though one hundred and four miles. He was allowed to make uſe of what carriages and Horſes he pleaſed.

The Gentleman's Magazine for 1770, *Vol. IV. p.* 388.

A labouring man, aged fifty-eight, walked from the one mile ſtone at Mile-end, to the eleven mile ſtone on the Eſſex road, for a wager of two hundred guineas. He was allowed four hours to do it in, but performed it in three hours and three quarters, being twenty-two miles.

The Gentleman's Magazine for 1772, *Vol. XLII. p.* 196.

But the moſt celebrated walker ever known in England was Mr. Powell, who on the 29th of November, 1773, walked from Old Hicks's-hall, in St. John's-ſtreet, Clerkenwell, to Micklegate-bar in York, a diſtance of four hundred and two miles, within ſix days. His firſt ſtop for reſt was at Stilton, ſeventy-five miles from town; his next at Doncaſter, eighty-five miles beyond Stilton. He reached Micklegate-bar in

York, on the third day at two o'clock; from which place, after ſome refreſhment and reſt, he ſet off at five in the afternoon, and was twenty miles on his way back on the ſame evening. On the ſixth day at two o'clock, he was at Hatfield, twenty miles from town, where he ſtayed a conſiderable time to refreſh; and at Highgate he halted about half an hour. He came for the laſt twenty miles at the rate of five miles an hour. He arrived as well and cheerful as when he ſet off. On his return to old Hick's-hall, he rode home in a coach to Holloway, and returned in a few hours afterwards to ſpend the evening in conviviality with his friends. He was a man of about five feet ten inches high, ſpare and thin, but ſinewy, and what is generally called croſs made.

In December, 1798, a ſervant of Sir Morton Eden, made a journey from Vienna, by way of Hamburgh, to England, in nine days, an expedition which, at this ſeaſon of the year and through roads ſo bad as thoſe of Germany, is moſt extraordinary. *From a Newſpaper.*

On Monday the 13th, a brick-maker, ran eight miles on the Whitechapel road in fifty-ſeven minutes, being three minutes leſs than the time allowed. He ran the firſt three miles in nineteen minutes.

From the Obſerver, (a Newſpaper) May 19, 1799.

On Tueſday laſt, May 22, Mr. Shaw, Tryer of the Malton courſing meeting, rode on three ſucceſſive horſes ſixty miles on Hambleton-plain, in two hours and fifty-one minutes, being nine minutes leſs than the time allowed.

From ditto, June 2, 1799.

A ſhoemaker, named Turner, at Wrentham in Suffolk, undertook for a wager to pick up an hundred ſtones, laid at a yard diſtance from each other, and taking each ſtone ſeparately to a baſket at the beginning of the ground. He was allowed forty-two minutes, but performed it in forty-one minutes, five ſeconds. *From a Newſpaper.*

Jonathan Studholm, an inhabitant of the pariſh of Aikton, in Cumberland, who is in his ſeventy-eighth year, walked ſixty miles in one day laſt week, without experiencing much fatigue or inconvenience. *From ditto July*, 1799.

A well and ſingular conteſted race was run over Beam Heath, near Nantwich, between Mr Barrow Cliff, who rode his Welch horſe Punch twice round the courſe, (two miles) and

and Mr. Yardley, of Nantwich, who ran on foot, with his hands tied behind his back, once round the courſe. The race was won by the Horſeman, who beat the Pedeſtrian by four yards, which was performed in five minutes and fifty-ſix ſeconds. *From a Newſpaper, of March,* 1800.

Of the Aſs and Mule.

The Goorcur of the Zebra ſpecies, or wild Aſs of the mountains, has already been deſcribed.

Ferocious to a great degree, when wild, the Aſſes in Quito are extraordinarily active and ſpeedy; but after being caught, and carrying their firſt load, they become ſtupid and dull, loſing all their celerity and ferocity.

Ulloa's Voyage, Vol. I. p. 301.

After once ſubmitting, however reluctantly, to his burthen, the wild Aſs, from that inſtant, becomes depreſſed, ſubdued, and humiliated, quite ſpiritleſs, and inanimate, as thoſe born and bred domeſtically. The Aſs is a great and deſerved favourite of all natural hiſtorians, who ſpeak of him with that commendation, his uſeful labours to mankind, and his calm, reſigned, and patient endurance of them, unqueſtionably merit; and they univerſally obſerve, how much this poor acquieſcent, depreſſed, ſcorned, yet diligent animal, would have been valued and careſſed, had the Horſe been wanting to their neceſſities, to their convenience, and to their pleaſures.

The large Aſs of Arabia, is of a high-ſpirited breed, and fitter for travelling than the Horſe.

See the Gentleman's Magazine for 1761, *p.* 304.

An Aſs went one hundred miles, in twenty-one hours, at Newmarket, about June, 1761. The odds were, that he did not perform it in twenty-four hours, 100 to 10.

See the Gentleman's Magazine for 1761, *p.* 281.

When the firſt Duke of Cumberland commanded as Captain General in the Netherlands, all the Hanoverian houſhold were in attendance on his perſon, with an equipage and apparatus ſuitable to his royal accommodation; for the conveyance of which, the Empreſs Queen, Maria Thereſa, made him a moſt imperial preſent of above one hundred Spaniſh

Spaniſh Mules, of uncommon ſize and comelineſs, many of them meaſuring ſixteen and ſeventeen hands in height. Their colours were principally grey, black and brown.

The beſt Mules are produced from the Spaniſh Aſs, and the large muſcular Mares of Andaluſia. Some are indeed bred from a Stallion and the ſhe Aſs, but they are weak and waſhy.

But the moſt extraordinary kind of Mules is ſeen in Savoy, Lombardy, and other parts of Italy, generated from the mixture of the Horſe and Cow, as of the Bull and Mare, ſaid to be exceedingly uſeful in farming, for the draught of waggons, carts, and other carriages.

FINIS.